REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 11, 2006, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 31-38, 40-45, 48, 50-52, 55-56 and 60 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. No new matter has been added. Claims 31-60 are submitted for consideration.

Claims 37-38 and 46-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 37-38 have been amended to overcome the rejection. Claims 46-47 were rejected because "the communications medium" recited in claims 46-47 lacked proper antecedent basis. Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 46-47 because "a communications medium" is recited in claim 31, upon which claims 46-47 depend. Therefore, Applicants request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 31-43 and 45-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,275,500 to Callaway (hereinafter Callaway). The rejection is traversed as being based on a reference that neither teaches nor suggests the novel combination of features clearly recited in independent claims 31-43 and 45-60.

Claim 31, upon which claims 33-50 depend, recites a method including sending a request from one user equipment acting as a master equipment to at least one slave user

equipment over a communications medium, preferably a short-range communications medium. The request prompts the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment in the communications network. The method also includes the at least one slave user equipment sending a response including user information for group establishment, over the communications medium to the master user equipment. The method further includes the master user equipment creating or modifying the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment and the master user equipment sending the information on the created or modified group to the network for establishing a communications group in a communications network including user equipments.

Claim 32 recites a method of establishing a communications group in a communications network. The method includes sending a request from master user equipment to at least one slave user equipment over a communications medium, preferably a short-range communications medium. The request prompts the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment in the communications network. The method also includes the at least one slave user equipment sending over the communications medium a response including user information for group establishment to the master user equipment for communication in the communication network. The method further includes the master user equipment creating or modifying the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment and the master user equipment sending the information

on the created or modified group to all members of the group over the communications medium.

Claim 51, upon which claims 53-54 depend, recites a user equipment including a group communications capability. The equipment further includes means for sending a request to at least one slave user equipment over a communications medium, preferably a short-range communications medium. The request prompts the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment for communication in the communication network. The equipment also includes means for receiving from at least one slave user equipment over the communications medium a response including user information for group establishment. The equipment further includes means for creating or modifying the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment and means for sending the information on the created or modified group to the network for establishing the group.

Claim 52 recites a user equipment including a group communications capability. The equipment also includes means for sending a request to at least one slave user equipment over a communications medium prompting the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment. The equipment also includes means for receiving from at least one slave user equipment over the communications medium a response including user information for group establishment. The equipment further includes means for creating or modifying the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment and means

for sending the information on the created or modified group to all members of the group via the communications medium.

Claim 55, upon which claims 57-60 depend, recites a communications system including a mobile communications network and a plurality of user equipment each including a group communications capability in the mobile communications network, and a transceiver for further communication over a short-range communications medium. The system further includes at least one user equipment being configured to operate as master user equipment and to send a request to at least one slave user equipment over the short-range communications medium prompting the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment in the mobile communications network. The system further includes at least one user equipment being configured to operate as slave user equipment and to send to the master user equipment over the short-range communications medium a response including user information for group establishment. The system also includes the master user equipment being further configured to create or modify the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment and the master user equipment being further configured to send the information on the created or modified group to the mobile communications network for establishing the group.

Claim 56 recites a communications system including a mobile communications network, a plurality of user equipment each including a group communications capability in the mobile communications network, and a transceiver for further communication over

a short-range communications medium. The system also includes at least one user equipment being configured to operate as master user equipment and to send a request to at least one slave user equipment over the short-range communications medium prompting the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment in the mobile communications network. The system further includes at least one user equipment being configured to operate as slave user equipment and to send to the master user equipment over the short-range communications medium a response including user information for group establishment. The system also includes the master user equipment being further configured to create or modify the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment and the master user equipment being further configured to send the information on the created or modified group to all members of the group over the short-range communications medium.

As outlined below, Applicants submit that the cited reference of Callaway does not teach or suggest the elements of claims 31-43 and 45-60.

In Callaway, a master polls the slaves at a first interval and receives a communication request from a first slave to communicate with a second slave. The master then designates communication parameters and polls the slaves to confirm the termination of communication. Since there is a limitation of the number of slave devices that a master can control, other slave devices are in a parked mode. In Callaway, the master can set up multiple parked slave groups, thus, achieving higher system throughput

without the intercession of the master. See Col. 1, lines 44 to 46, Col. 2, line 22, Col. 3, lines 3 to 6 and Col. 3, lines 16-20 of Callaway.

Applicants submit that Callaway does not teach or suggest each element recited in claims 31-43 and 45-60. Each of claims 31-43 and 45-60 recites sending a request from one user equipment acting as a master equipment to at least one slave user equipment over a communications medium, preferably a short-range communications medium, the request prompting the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment in the communications network. In the present invention, as recited in the presently pending claims, at least one slave equipment responses to a request of the master user equipment with user information, the master user creates the group based on the user information and sends information either to the communications network or to all members of the group. Thus, the present invention provides for easy, fast and simple establishment of group communication.

Callaway concentrates on dynamic control of talk groups and not on establishing a communications group, as recited in the presently pending claims. Callaway discloses how a master device can connect two or more slave devices together. The presently pending claims recite that **any** of the devices can act as a master, and **all**, including the master device, will be connected to a group session. In Callaway, one of the slave devices requests a communication from the master device. Contrary to the teachings of Callaway, the presently pending claims recite that the master device, not the slave device, requests the other devices to join a group session. Furthermore, in Callaway the

connection is established using the bluetooth communication. As recited in the presently pending claims, on the other hand, bluetooth or any other short range technique is used to **gather** information about all the members, which will be invited to the session and the session itself is connected using the **core network**. In other words, the group is established over a short-range communications medium, but is operated via a communications network.

Each of the presently pending claims also recites that the master user equipment creates or modifies the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment. Thus, it should be noted that the group is created or modified **based on the information received in responses**. The Office Action alleged that at least one slave user equipment sending a response including user information for group establishment, over the communications medium to the master user equipment, as recited in the presently pending claims, is inherent in piconet connection setup. However, Applicants submit that sending of requests, sending of responses and performing an action based on the information received in responses cannot be inherent, but it is purposeful and may even vary from case to case. In the present invention the response phase is "responsive to a certain request", thus, it cannot be inherent as alleged by the Office Action.

Callaway also fails to teach and suggest at least one slave user equipment sends a response including user information for group establishment, over the communications medium to the master user equipment, as recited in the presently pending claims.

Callaway does not teach or suggest a transmission, which is responsive for group establishment. Specifically, Callaway does not disclose or suggest sending a request from one (any) user equipment acting as a master equipment to at least one slave user equipment, the request prompting the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment, as recited in the presently pending claims. The Office Action referred to Col. 3, lines 16-38 of Callaway, where "the master 2 performs the functions of vectoring slaves to other frequencies" and "where the master polls the slaves". However, vectoring or polling, as disclosed in Callaway, is not the same as sending a request for user information for group establishment, as recited in the presently pending claims. Based on the discussion above, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn because Callaway fails to teach or suggest each feature of claims 31-43 and 45-60.

Claim 44 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Callaway in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0034959 to Jamieson (hereinafter Jamieson). According to the Office Action, Callaway teaches all of the elements of claim 44 except for teaching an MSISDN number. Therefore, the Office Action combined Callaway and Jamieson to yield all of the elements of claim 44. The rejection is traversed as being based on references that neither teach nor suggest the novel combination of features clearly recited in independent claim 31, upon which claim 44 depend.

Claim 31 and Callaway have been discussed above. Jamieson discloses a method of transferring data signals between a primary station and secondary stations of a master/slave radio network. The method includes the primary station assigning the secondary stations to a plurality of categories. The primary station transmits beacon signals containing indications of those categories for which it has data to be transferred. A secondary station operating in accordance with a wakeup sequence receives the beacon signals and determines if there is an indication of its category in a received beacon signal. If so, it transmits a request including an indication of its identity. The primary station checks to see if it has a data packet for the identified secondary station and, if it has, it transmits the data packet and, if not, it transmits a negative acknowledgement. Those secondary stations not participating in the exchange of messages can revert to a sleep mode thereby saving power. See at least the Abstract.

Jamieson does not cure any of the deficiencies of Callaway as outlined above. Specifically, Jamieson does not teach or suggest sending a request from one user equipment acting as a master equipment to at least one slave user equipment over a communications medium, preferably a short-range communications medium, the request prompting the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment in the communications network and the master user equipment creates or modifies the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment, as recited in claim 31, upon which claim 44 depends. Therefore, Applicants respectfully asserts that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be

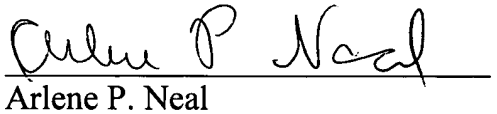
withdrawn because neither Callaway nor Jamieson, whether taken singly or combined, teaches or suggests each feature of claim 31 and hence, dependent claim 44 thereon.

As noted previously, claims 31-60 recite subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art references cited in the Office Action. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 31-60 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
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